

III. Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. After the amendments above, claims 1-13, 15-34, and 36-47 remain pending, of which claims 13, 31, 36 and 37 have been amended. Applicants hereby cancel without prejudice the withdrawn claims 48-53. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowance of claims 1-12 and 38-47.

A. Discussion of Amended Independent Claims

Claims 13 and 31 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being previously described by Rutt in U.S. Patent No. 6,592,534. The rejection is moot as claims 13 and 31 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 14 and 35, respectfully. Amended claims 13 and 31 are now patentably distinct from the cited prior art, and are in condition for allowance. Claims 15-20 depend from claim 13, and claims 32-34, 36 and 37 depend from claim 31. Thus, these claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

B. Conclusion

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to deduct the fee for the one month extension of time. If any additional fees are required to complete this filing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 13-0480, Attorney Docket No. 24179785.010035US.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment and Response to Office Action or the Application in general, Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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